



ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of an improved copper chromite catalyst for the hydrogenation of diethyl maleate to tetrahydrofuran with very high selectivity. This invention particularly relates to a process for the preparation of an improved copper chromite catalyst with specific composition and physical properties containing copper, chromium, zinc and aluminium as catalyst components in order to achieve selective production of tetrahydrofuran via single step hydrogenation of diethyl maleate. The calcination procedure has also been described to achieve the best activity. The catalyst has a life of more than 630 hours with constant activity. The used catalyst can also be regenerated to match the original hydrogenation activity.